ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A distributed software architecture implements a routing protocol as a set of processes running on a set of processors of a router. The distributed processes cooperate in a manner that internally exploits the distributed set of processors, yet externally presents an appearance/behavior of a single routing protocol process communicating with its peers in the network. The distributed nature of the architecture is achieved without altering the fundamental routing protocol, but by apportioning certain functions/tasks of the protocol among various processes in the multiprocessor router.